In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for obtaining a mixture of solid components ~~(21a, 21b,.. .21n)~~ in a predetermined ratio stored in containers ~~(31)~~ having a bottom opening ~~(36)~~ ~~and , in a predetermined ratio~~ comprising providing for each component a fluidized flow ~~(24a, 24b,...24n)~~ by injecting air into each container near the bottom opening ~~(36)~~ to render the component flowable, said flow ~~(24a, 24b, ...24n)~~ at a predetermined individual flow rate corresponding to the ratio of said component in the mixture; conveying each flow ~~(24a, 24b,...24n)~~ to the inlet ~~(39)~~ of a static mixer ~~(32)~~ exclusively by gravity, the mixer continuously producing at an outlet ~~(38)~~ a flow of the mixture ~~(26)~~.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: dispersing the flows inside the mixer by causing the flows to pass at least one static obstacle ~~(44)~~ inserted in the flows.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 2~~, further comprising monitoring an effective flow rate of one selected component of the mixture; and adjusting in real time the individual flow rates of each other components based on said effective flow rate.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said mixture includes a cement and further comprising blending the mixture with water to form a slurry; pumping the slurry into an annulus of a well.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for preparing a mixture of solid components in a predetermined ratio comprising a hopper ~~(31)~~ for each individual components, said hopper including lateral walls ~~(41)~~ and a bottom ~~(42)~~ with an opening ~~(36)~~ and further comprising a grid ~~(41)~~ extending from the lower portion of the lateral walls ~~(40)~~ to the opening ~~(36)~~, and means ~~(43)~~ for introducing air into the gap between the hopper bottom and the grid; said grid permeable to air but not to the component stored in the hopper,

means (35) for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the opening (36), for adjusting the flow rate of each component flowing from the opening (36)based on the ratio of each component in the mixture, a static mixer (32) having an inlet (39) into which all individual flows are conveyed exclusively by gravity, said mixer (32) continuously producing at an outlet (38) a flow of mixture.

6.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said means (35) for adjusting said individual generated flow rate based include knife gate valves.

7.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5 or 6, wherein the vertical walls (40) of the hopper (31) form an angle (α) to the vertical ranging from 0 to 23°.

8.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the mixer (32) includes dispersing means (44) statically mounted inside the main body so as to present an obstacle to the global flow entering the inlet (39).

9.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claims 5 or 6, further comprising: a Man Machine Interface (52) to input a mixture recipe; processing means to calculate for each component of the mixture the predetermined flow rate from a ratio of the components in the mixture recipe.

10.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising: a sensor system (64a, 64b) to measure a value of an effective flow rate of a selected component of the mixture, the sensor system producing a sensor signal indicative of the value of the effective flow rate of said component; an adjustable valve (66a, 66b), the effective flow rate of the component being adjusted depending on an opening of the adjustable valve; and wherein the adjustable valve and the sensor define a loop (62a, 62b), and the flow rate of the component being regulated to the predetermined flow rate using the sensor signal.